GOVERNMENT'S ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF AGRA AND MATHURA DISTRICTS

A

Synopsis

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Introduction

Global warming has led to climate change around the globe which has disastrous effects on the lives of people specially the marginalized and vulnerable people because they don't have resources to tackle impacts of climate change. They are most vulnerable to survive. Effects of climate change are unpredictable, like heavy rain fall, temperature rise, reducing agricultural productivity; low water level etc and human activities are directly contributing to this. The impact of climate change is not distributed equally.

History is the witness that the poor have always suffered atrocities by the rich. World's richest countries have been taking advantage of fossil fuels since the Industrial revolution of the 18th century. The most developed nations like USA and UK have made maximum use of fossil fuels which has affected the climate and they are still exploiting fossil fuels in the name of technological and economic development which is injustice to the less developed nations and developing nations like India, Brazil and Bangladesh etc. These nations are in the process of development and trying to raise their economy so these are the most suffered countries. This is situation of injustice so it is the duty of developed nations to take first step towards zero carbon emission to bear impacts of climate equally. Policy making is not enough, they need to implement at macro level to micro level by the government to bring climate justice.[1] The word 'Climate justice' first appeared in a report of San Francisco titled "Greenhouse Gangsters vs. Climate justice" in 1999. The concept of climate justice was first put forward at international level in the Paris Agreement on climate justice which is the most important pillar for climate justice.[2]

"Climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human/ centered approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly".[3]

To keep climate change within safe boundaries global carbon emission needs to be reduced at zero level. Now global consciousness is increasing so summits have been going on. Major international developments to tackle with the problem of climate change including the United Nation Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in May 1992 at Earth Rio Summit, The Kyoto Protocol in 1997, important meetings at Bali and Bangkok, Paris agreement became base for

international developments to reduce carbon emission. And Countries are making efforts to minimize impact of climate change. “Canadian government proposed to reduce greenhouse gas emission 30 percent below 2005 level by 2030”.[4] Australia’s target is to reduce emission by 26 percent to 28 percent of 2005 levels by 2030. China’s target is to stop growth rate of carbon emission before 2030. US target to cut carbon emission by 2025 from 2005. Countries like Bhutan and Suriname are already beyond net zero carbon emission etc.[5] “India’s emission targets are the most ambitious and close to the 1.5 degree Celsius limit” India pledged to cut its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission by 33 to 35 percent below 2005 by 2030 in the Paris Agreement.[6]

“If India took to the British or American model of Industrialization, it would strip the world bare like locusts” said by Mahatma Gandhi. The Indian government established a department of environment, which become a full fledged Environment Ministry in 1985.[7]

India is coming forward as responsible member of the global community. India is one of the few countries in the world where environment protection mention in the Indian Constitution, recognized as an integral component of the Right to Life.[8] The National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination (NCEPC) established in 1972 was earlier the apex advisory board relating to issues of environmental protection. In the year 1974 Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) was formed, development of governmental bodies for environment protection is going on.

India is taking action through government action plan to establish climate justice. government’s action plan is a kind of document which lists what steps or measures must be taken in order to achieve a specific goal. India’s National Action plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) outlines a number of steps to tackle climate change. Some important missions are as follows.

1. **National Solar Mission:** Government aims to promote use of solar energy for generating power instead of using fossil fuels.
2. **National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE):** National Action Plan on climate change recommends mandatory specific energy consumption.

3. **National Mission on Sustainable Habitat Efficiency (NMSH):** It protects energy efficiency as a core component of urban planning.
4. **National Water Mission (NWM):** Its aim to improvement 20 percent in water, it deals with measures on water scarcity as a result of Climate change.
5. **National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE):** It was established with objective to develop sustainable national capacity to continuously assess the health status of the Himalayan ecosystem etc.
6. **National Mission for a Green India:** Aims to increase the forest cover and to improve quality of forests etc
7. **National Mission on Sea buckthorn**: It is also known as 'Wonder plant' as it has so many properties like medicinal and nutritional properties, helps in soil conservation and nitrogen fixation, drought resistant and has tolerated extreme temperature etc.
8. **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA):** There are so many adaptation and mitigation linked issues like improved crop seeds, livestock and fish culture, pet management, nutrient management, livelihood diversification etc.

National Green Tribunal (NGT) has established on 18 October 2010 under the National green Tribunal Act 2010 with the aim of effective disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forest and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right related to environment. National Green Tribunal (NGT) dedicated Jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice.

Agra is best known for the Taj Mahal (17th century) and Mathura is important place of pilgrimage and both are centers of attraction for tourists. Economy of Agra and Mathura districts are based on agriculture and industry. The large number of small scale industries creates uncontrolled pollution. Climate change is directly impacting the lives of people of Agra and Mathura, so climate justice is needed to be established through government policies and execution of government action plan on climate justice. Climate justice is the essence of sustainable development.

Keywords

Government Action Plan and Climate Justice.

Review of Literature

Adams & Luchsinger, (2009). In their research "**Climate Justice for a Changing Planet: a Primer for Policy Makers and NGOs**" have used the doctrinal approach and the nature of argument is both exploratory & descriptive. Authors have examined that equity is at the core of any solution to climate change and focused on the importance of climate justice to reduce global poverty, impact of climate change, protection of human rights etc. Main objectives of this study are to explain impacts of climate change on India and other countries. It is found that the concept of climate justice is not just only an ethical issues it is economic, social and political too.[9]

Fisher, (2012). In his work **"The emerging geographies of Climate Justice"** has used Semi - structured interview method and he did observation of participatory processes and programs in villages and municipal government and analyzed Indian government's position and policies of government on climate change. Author has discussed so many aspects of climate justice together but mainly he put together literature on environmental justice, processes of development and the politics of scale to make more aware and active towards this major concern of climate change. It is found that climate change is a critical problem and game of politics should not play with it as political agenda because it is now become an international concern, a global problem.[10]

Dubach, (2012). In his study **"The Politics of Climate Change in India: Narrative of Equity & Co Benefits"** has analyzed the climate situation and implementation of climate policies in India. Author has examined the origin of the concept of climate change and diplomatic position of India at international level. It is found that climate politics can be revisited to solve current problem of climate change in India. Politically, climate change has begun being harnessed as a rhetorical tool to other long standing political issues such as construction of nuclear power & large dams, growth of complexity indicates signals implementation of climate policies concern in India.[11]

Atteridge, Shrivastava, et. al., (2012). In their study "**Climate Policy in India: What Shapes International, National & State"** have adopted semi structured interviews mainly focused on influence and they have used a common analytical perspective which was taken from different primary

and secondary data sources a range of influences both material and ideational for policy implementation & directions. The main objective of this paper is to explore different influences over India's involvement or participation with International negotiations and development of government policies at domestic level. It is found that India is using climate diplomacy in which two phases of Indian ideology can be seen: one side India is a poor state and need to develop more Industries and another side India is actively taking part in concerning climate change and to save environment, this is because to create international image of India.[12]

Cameron, Shine, et. al., (2013). In their research **"Climate Justice: Equity & Justice Information a new Climate Agreement"** have examined the relation among climate change, justice and equity to solve global problem from climate change. Major objectives of this study are to establish climate change as an issue of Justice, to analyze the role of equity & justice to establish new climate agreement and to explore the capacity of Justice in mobilizing domestic constituencies of demand for climate action. It is found that climate change is a matter of justice for those people who least contributed to climate change. Authors suggested that all countries should work collective to minimize the dangerous impacts of climate change.[13]

Guha, (2014). In his book **"Environmentalism: A Global History"** has focused on the threat to health of human and environment because of unregulated economic growth. Author has traced world's historical world's events and efforts to protect environment. It is found that this is global problem which is mostly emerged after Industrial revolution.[14]

Modi, (2015). In his book **"Convenient Action Continuity for Change"** has described situation of climate change and government actions to minimize harmful impacts of climate change. Author has emphasized on sustainable development. Author has done study mainly on Gujarat model and initiatives of government for water security, climate justice, and solar power plant etc.[15]

Kumar & Saraswat, (2016). In their work **"Climate justice in lieu in Climate change: a sustainable approach to respond to the Climate change injustice and an awakening of the environmental movement"** have focused on conceptual understanding of climate justice and awareness of world towards actions to protect environment. It is found that sustainable development

and balance between protection of environment and economic development need to establish with the help of new technologies and policies.[16]

Deepak, (2016). In his study "**Human- Environment Interaction"** has focused on the challenges in policy and governance processes on environment issues. The main objective was to inform about human being's role in environmental degradation and government's challenges to establish environment justice. He has discussed international developments for environment protection from international level to national level (India). It is found that government intervention is necessary in deciding equal distribution of natural resources to provide justice to most vulnerable sections of the society.[17]

Robinson, (2018). In her book **"Climate Justice"** has mainly focused on need of climate justice and solutions for climate change. Main objectives were to establish justice through protecting environment and safeguarding human rights. Author focused on protecting the world's forests and reducing carbon. It is found that climate justice is possible when developed nation will first start reducing carbon emission and adopt new environmental friendly technologies.[18]

Jha, (2018). In his book **"Dawn of the Solar Age an end to global warming and to fear"** has analyzed the problem of climate change and he mainly focused on the solutions to avoid or minimize the impacts of climate change. Author focused on solar energy or other sustainable energy instid of using fossil fuels. Author has also adopted case study method and took India as case study; it is found that if human being improves its habits of dependency on consumption of natural resources like oil, gas, coal etc than it is the best way to reduce global warming and harmful impacts of climate change.[19]

Tietenberg & Lewis, (2018). In book **"Environmental and Natural Resources Economics"** have conducted survey on the challenges and opportunities which are created by climate change. Authors focused on national strategies on stationary and mobile sources. In this book authors examined new popular market mechanisms under the context of both theory as well as practice. Authors have also emphasized on the important aspects of the international context associated with climate change. It is found that the problem of climate change is not just a problem but need to take major actions as fast as government and people can and mitigate emission and to develop adaptation strategies and

government policies. International Organizations seeks to serve the interest of powerful Nations which provide funds to run these organizations.[20]

Hall, (2018). In his work **"Global Climate Adaptation Governance: Why is it not legally binding?"** has conducted interviews with climate adaptation experts and negotiators and participant observation at many Climate negotiations and other meetings like the UNFCCC, COP in Bali, Poznan, Copenhagen and Paris etc. Objective was to identify hypotheses to explain the low level of legalization of adaptation in the UNFCCC, and to implement government policies. It is found that there are contrasting opinions on global adaptation governance, analyses suggest that low legalization is partly because adaptation is a contested global public good and included as side payment. There is need to focus on trade off over uncertainty, sovereignty and flexibility, divergent preference between developed states and developing states.[21]

Stergiadou, Drosos, et al., (2019). In their research **"Environmental Pillars for Sustainable Management System in Ancient Olympia"** have done case study of Ancient Olympia as forest engineering team. Main objective is to give a chronicle series of changes at the place of Ancient Olympia, to show nature before and after the wild fire of Peloponnese at Southern Greece. Authors believed that sustainable development is the protection of nature. It is found technical works and protective measures against erosion were suggested to achieve the effective development. Result was that the restoration of the Archaeological and Greater Landscape of the Ancient Olympia has been declared one of the UNESCO world Heritage Monument and implementation of technological projects for the protection of the natural Environment.[22]

Research Gaps

- Most of the studies have been conducted on the basis of secondary sources of data but there are very few empirical studies. Present study will be based primarily on primary sources of data.
- No study has been conducted on the impact of globalization in the formulation of policy for climate justice in India but present study will be focused on impact of globalization in the formulation of policy for climate justice in India.

- No comparative study has been conducted on execution of government's action plan of India for climate Justice in Agra and Mathura districts but present study will be focused on comparative study of execution of government's action plan of India for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.
- No study has been done on the role of National Green Tribunal (NGT), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and people's willingness and participation in the implementation of government's action plan for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts but present study will be focused on the role of National Green Tribunal (NGT), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and people's willingness and participation in the implementation of government's action plan for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.
- No study has been conducted on role of Industries and hospitals in execution of government's action plan of India for climate justice but present study will be traced role of industries and hospitals for the implementation of government's action plan of India for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.

Statement of the Problem

Climate change is burning problem of the world because climate change is a man made phenomenon. The most vulnerable nations suffer the most due to impacts of climate change, this create the situation of injustice in which developed nations have contributed and developing and under developing nations are suffering the most. So Justice is the need of present time. Country like India needs to create balance between economic development and environmental justice. Climate change is political, economic as well as ethical issue; government should give justice at grassroots level to those people who are most affected due to unpredictable impact of climate change like loss in crops, houses, diseases, loss of lives etc. Now government is taking action to establish climate justice and how government is executing its plan will be studied in the present study. Both Agra and Mathura are major industrial areas. People face so many problems like pollution, low ground water level and impact on historical monuments etc.

Significance of the Study

This study is also important to make people aware to take this problem seriously and start reducing dependency on fossil fuels and adopt eco friendly ways of living because we don't have another planet. This study will help in adding literature for administration and it will help government to modify its policies. It is important to Study "Government's Action Plan for Climate Justice: A Comparative Study of Agra and Mathura Districts" because both are historically important, centre point of attraction for tourists, major industries and agriculture based economy. Mathura and Agra both are highly affected by impact of climate change and both are highly responsible towards climate change (due to mismanagement of solid waste from temples and industries, lack of government's actions towards implementation of policies). So it is best to do comparative study to know which city is contributing more to climate change and to know where government is lacking in implementing government's action plan in Agra and Mathura districts. It is important to understand the issue of climate change to execute justice and to know how globalization impacting in the policy formulation for climate justice in India? So this study will help government to know basic barriers in the process of policy formation and pressurize administrators to take strict action to implement government action plan. Present study is also significant to trace role of National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Non-governmental Organization (NGOs) in the process of execution of government's action plan for climate justice.

Objectives

1. To study the impact of globalization in policy formulation for climate justice in India.
2. To compare government's action plan in enforcing climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.
3. To examine the role of National Green Tribunal (NGT), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and people's willingness and participation in implementing government's action plan for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.
4. To study the role of Industries and hospitals in execution of government's action plan for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.

Hypotheses

1. Globalization plays a positive impact in policy formulation for climate justice in India.
2. There is no difference in execution of government's action plan for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.
3. National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Non governmental Organization have been playing a positive and supportive role in enforcing climate justice and there is lack of people's willingness and participation in adopting government's action plan for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.
4. Industries and hospitals have not been adopting government action plan in giving Climate Justice in Agra and Mathura districts.

Research Methodology

- **Research Design**: The research design of the present study will be descriptive and exploratory.
- **Area of Study:** The area of the study will be the Agra and Mathura districts.
- **Universe of Study:** All the major Industries, hospitals, National Green Tribunal (NGT), Non- governmental Organization (NGOs) working for environment protection and the people of Agra and Mathura cities will constitute the universe of study.
- **Sampling:** Stratified Sampling will be used, first of all stratum of Industries, Hospitals, National Green Tribunal (NGT), Non-governmental Organization (NGOs) and block of Agra and Mathura cities will be framed. From the stratum so formed, two stage random sampling will be used.

  List of Industries, hospitals, Non-governmental Organization (NGOs), National Green Tribunal (NGT) and blocks will be prepared.

  First Stage: From the list of Industries, hospitals, Non governmental Organization (NGOs), National Green Tribunal (NGT) and blocks of Agra and Mathura districts will be selected.

  Second Stage: A sample size proportionate to selected population size will be selected randomly.

- **Unit of the Study:** Engineers and managers of Industries, doctors of hospitals, officials of National Green Tribunal (NGT), Officials of Non governmental Organizations (NGOs) and head of the household from the blocks will form the unit of the study.
- **Sources of data collection:** Primary and Secondary data will be used for the present study. Primary data will be collected by using structured interview schedule and observation and case study method.

Secondary data will be collected from records of the Industries, hospitals, National Green Tribunal (NGT), Non governmental Organizations (NGOs) for taking government action plan for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts, Books, journals, articles, research papers, newspapers, reports of various organizations etc will also be used.

Chapterisation

Chapter 1

- Introduction
- Review of Literature
- Statement of the problem
- Significance of the study
- Objectives of the study
- Hypothesis of the study
- Research Methodology

Chapter 2

- Impact of globalization in the formulation of policy for climate justice in India.

Chapter 3

- Comparative study on government's action plan in enforcing climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.

Chapter 4

- Role of National Green Tribunal (NGT), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and People's willingness and participation in implementing government's action plan for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.

Chapter 5

Role of Industries and hospitals in execution of government's action plan of India for climate justice in Agra and Mathura districts.

*** Conclusion**

*** Appendix**

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